

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An information providing apparatus capable of executing a communication via a network, comprising:

registering means for registering one or more terminal and a permission/inhibition of charge, for each user;

reception means for receiving transmission information to a user from an external terminal;

decision means for deciding, from the one or more terminal registered for the user by said registering means, a destination terminal of the transmission information received by said reception means;

selection means for selecting a conversion module ~~existing in an external device~~, which converts a format of the transmission information into a format which matches processing ability of the decided destination terminal;

designation means for sending the transmission information to the selected conversion module so as to make the selected conversion module convert the transmission information; and

transferring means for transferring the converted transmission information to the decided destination terminal; and

inhibiting means for, when a user sets to inhibit charge, inhibiting said selection means

from selecting conversion module which accrues charge.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the apparatus further comprises division means for dividing the data contained in the transmission information in accordance with types of contents of the data,

said selection means selects a conversion module for each divided data, and

said transferring means integrates the data whose formats are converted by selected conversion module and transfers the integrated data to the destination.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the transmission information is electronic mail, and the data divided in accordance with the types are attached files contained in the electronic mail

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selection means selects a conversion module on the basis of a data format of the data contained in the transmission information and a data format of the destination.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said transferring means integrates the converted data in accordance with a data order of the transmission information.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the destination is a World Wide Web information providing apparatus, said selection means selects a conversion module which converts image data contained in the transmission information into JPEG data and converts wordprocessor document data into HTML format data.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the destination is a portable terminal, said selection module selects a conversion module which converts image data contained in the transmission information into a format displayable on the portable terminal and converts wordprocessor document data into text string data representing a subject of the document.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising charging means for, when said conversion module executes conversion which accrues charge, executing charge processing.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claims 14-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): An information providing method comprising:

a reception step of receiving transmission information to a user from an external terminal;

a decision step of deciding, from one or more terminal registered for the user in registering unit, a destination terminal of the transmission information received in the reception step;

a selection step of selecting a conversion module ~~existing in an external device~~, which converts a format of the transmission information into a format which matches processing ability of the decided destination terminal;

a designation step of sending the transmission information to the selected conversion

module so as to make the selected conversion module convert the transmission information;
and

a transferring step of transferring the converted transmission information to the decided destination terminal; and

an inhibiting step of, when a user sets to inhibit charge, inhibiting said selection step from selecting conversion module which accrues charge.

Claims 22-40 (Cancelled)

Claim 41 (Currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium which stores a control program for causing a computer to execute an information providing method comprising:

a reception step of receiving transmission information to a user from an external terminal;

a decision step of deciding, from one or more terminal registered for the user in registering unit, a destination terminal of the transmission information received in the reception step;

a selection step of selecting a conversion module ~~existing in an external device~~, which converts a format of the transmission information into a format which matches processing ability of the decided destination terminal;

a designation step of sending the transmission information to the selected conversion module so as to make the selected conversion module convert the transmission information;
and

a transferring step of transferring the converted transmission information to the decided destination terminal; and

an inhibiting step of, when a user sets to inhibit charge, inhibiting said selection step
from selecting conversion module which accrues charge.

Claim 42 (Cancelled)